

# *University Women*

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University Women

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## **STATUS OF WOMEN & COUNTRY INITIATIVES**

A Seminar was organized by the WGU on the "Status of Women & Country Initiatives".

The three keynote speakers invited were the Consul-General of Sri Lanka, Ms. Saroja Sirisena, Deputy High Commissioner and Consul-General of Bangladesh, Ms. Samina Naz, and the Consul - General of South Africa, Ms. M L Ramokgopa.

All three women spoke eloquently on the important role played by women in their country. Women were emancipated, career-oriented and confident in every field and even outnumbered their male counterparts in Parliament. They stressed the importance of creating awareness and on education to empower women, as they "manned", as it were, the highest echelons of power and influence in their country. Health and education of women and children were paramount considerations to be emphasized in the future planning of government policies and plans. This policy had led to their all-encompassing growth, giving them a sense of fulfilment and pride.

The lively interaction that followed between the three guest speakers and the largely female audience was very enlightening. It certainly revealed their interests and concerns for their counterparts in Sri Lanka, South Africa and Bangladesh. The poise and sound knowledge of the three Consul-Generals assured the audience of a safe and progressive future for the women of Sri Lanka, South Africa and Bangladesh.

Ms. Saroja Sirisena revealed that all the children in Sri Lanka were entitled to the same level of education whether rich or poor, irrespective of their community or background. The children in government schools benefited equally as their counterparts from private schools.

It was an enjoyable evening full of camaraderie and fellowship as the participants enjoyed a delicious dinner served by our in-house Acme Caterers.

*Cataract is the third biggest  
cause of blindness.*

*Religion and Politics remain the first two.*

## SAYING HI OVER HIGH TEA

Reaching out to new and recent members of WGU, a special Get Together was organised on March 24th at the Amy Rustomjee Hall. Present at the meeting were Chairpersons or representatives of the different WGU Committees as well as WGU Office-bearers and Trustees.

Members were welcomed to a High Tea of delicious tea time snacks produced by our in-house caterer. This was followed by a session of lively introductions and getting to know a little about each member present.

The programme was designed to familiarize new members with the multifaceted areas of WGU's ongoing work and activities. At the outset, the WGU President spoke to the members present about WGU's international affiliation with the Geneva-based Graduate Women International (GWI). She informed them about the Citation and cash prize of \$1000 seed money donated by Prof. Chitra Ghosh, Past President of GWI, to institute the Chitra Ghosh Award for outstanding women. The awardee must have contributed to the development or betterment of the affiliated national association to which she belongs.

The Committee Chairpersons or representatives and Trustees subsequently spoke to the gathering and broadly explained the scope of work and recent initiatives of their respective committees. All spokespersons encouraged and invited the members to become actively involved in areas of work of the organisation as well as offer suggestions, help with fundraising, encourage their friends to become members and participate in WGU programmes and campaigns.

Members present were urged to share their time and special talents to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of WGU's work for the benefit of society. Member invitees found the session very informative and useful and expressed their willingness and interest to become more actively involved.

Now in this 101st year of the founding of WGU by enlightened and educated women, there was so much members together could accomplish in making a difference to our city and society. Members, do come forward and add more power to this multi-faceted organization.

*As much as you want  
to plan your life, it has  
a way of surprising you  
with unexpected  
things that will make you  
happier than you  
originally planned.*

*That's what you call*

**GOD'S WILL.**

## **POPE OPENS FREE LAUNDRETTE FOR HOMELESS**

Pope Francis has opened a free launderette in Rome in the latest of a series of initiatives for poor people that has included help with housing, showers, haircuts, meals and medical care. Six washing machines and dryers were donated to the facility in the city centre. Detergent, fabric softener and a number of irons have also been provided, reported the Guardian. The Lavanderia di Papa Francesco (Pope Francis Laundry) is intended to “restore dignity to many people who are our brothers and sisters”, the Vatican said. The launderette is located in a former hospital near the Vatican. Showers, a barbershop and medical facilities will also be added, reported the daily. Two years ago, the Pope opened a shower and barber service next to St. Peter’s Basilica and a dormitory nearby.

## **NEWS OF IFUWA**

First we must congratulate project IFUWA Convener Jyotika Kalra for being selected as a member of the National Human Rights Commission. Congratulation has been sent from all the members of WGU.

In January 2017 Dr. Swati Bedekar was declared elected IFUWA President (2017-20) with the following team:

Vice-President: Ms Prabha Mehta

Honorary Secretary: Ms Alka Smart

Jt. Secretary: Ms Swati Trivedi

Honorary Treasurer: Ms Kalpana Shah

Jt. Treasurer: Ms Sudha Bhagwat

CIR: Ms Nandini Sonthalia

### **Conveners:**

Scholarship Committee – Dr. Hemal Kanvinde, UWA, Madras

Projects Committee – Dr. Poongothai Shankar, UWA, Chidambaram

Membership Committee – Ms Meera Ramchand, UWA, Bangalore

Education Committee – Dr. Ranjana Banerjee, UWA, Kolkata

Newsletter Committee – Ms Purobi Ghosh, WGU, Mumbai

Constitution Advisory Committee – Dr. Meera Bondre, UWA, Pune

The new team will take over at the IFUWA CC in August/September 2017.

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**NOT.**

by **Erin Hanson**

You are not your age,  
 Nor the size of clothes you wear,  
 You are not a weight,  
 Or the colour of your hair.  
 You are not your name,  
 Or the dimples in your cheeks,  
 You are all the books you read,  
 And all the words you speak,  
 You are your croaky morning voice,  
 And the smiles you try to hide,  
 You're the sweetness in your laughter,  
 And every tear you've cried,  
 You're the songs you sing so loudly,  
 When you know you're all alone,  
 You're the places that you've been to,  
 And the one that you call home,  
 You're the things that you believe in,  
 And the people that you love,  
 You're the photos in your bedroom,  
 And the future you dream of,  
 You're made of so much beauty,  
 But it seems that you forgot,  
 When you decided that you were defined,  
 By all the things you're not.

**TEN BEAUTIFUL LINES**

- SOMEONE HAS WRITTEN THESE 10 BEAUTIFUL LINES. READ and TRY to UNDERSTAND the DEEPER MEANING of THEM.
- 1) PRAYER is not a "spare wheel" that YOU PULL OUT when IN trouble, but it is a "STEERING WHEEL" that DIRECT the RIGHT PATH THROUGHOUT LIFE.
  - 2) Why is a CAR'S WINDSHIELD so LARGE & the REAR VIEW MIRROR so small? BECAUSE our PAST is NOT as IMPORTANT as OUR FUTURE. So, LOOK AHEAD and MOVE ON.
  - 3) FRIENDSHIP is like a BOOK. It takes a FEW SECONDS to BURN, but it TAKES YEARS to WRITE.
  - 4) All THINGS in LIFE are TEMPORARY. If they are GOING WELL, ENJOY them, they WILL NOT LAST FOREVER. If they are going wrong, don't WORRY, THEY CAN'T LAST LONG EITHER.
  - 5) Old FRIENDS are GOLD! NEW friends are DIAMONDS! If you GET a DIAMOND, DON'T FORGET the GOLD! To HOLD a DIAMOND, you ALWAYS NEED a BASE of GOLD!
  - 6) Often when WE LOSE HOPE and THINK this is the END, GOD SMILES from ABOVE and SAYS, "RELAX, SWEETHEART; it's JUST a BEND, NOT THE END!"
  - 7) When GOD SOLVES your PROBLEMS, you HAVE FAITH in HIS ABILITIES; when GOD DOESN'T SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS, HE has FAITH in YOUR ABILITIES.
  - 8) A BLIND PERSON asked GOD: "CAN THERE be ANYTHING WORSE THAN LOSING EYE SIGHT?" HE REPLIED: "YES, LOSING YOUR VISION!"
  - 9) When YOU PRAY for OTHERS, GOD LISTENS to YOU and BLESSES THEM, and SOMETIMES, when you are SAFE and HAPPY, REMEMBER that SOMEONE has PRAYED for YOU.
  - 10) WORRYING does NOT TAKE AWAY TOMORROW'S TROUBLES; IT TAKES AWAY today's PEACE.

## USING SOCIAL MEDIA AS A COMMUNICATIONS TOOL

### IFUWA organised a Webinar -

To build our memberships and strengthen our collective global voice, now more than ever, it's imperative for nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) to be visible online. An important part of online presence is social media, which now has a significant role in facilitating communications and thinking between people, communities and societies worldwide. Social media is a powerful tool that when used effectively can help your association or federation to achieve its goals.

This interactive webinar was conducted with an aim to be useful for NFA Presidents, CIRs, committee members who are responsible for communications and also for members who wish to help their organisation to increase visibility and to grow through social media and its applications.

### Participants learnt:

What social media tools are available, what they allow you to do and the benefits of using tools such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Blogs.

How to use these free tools to promote your organisations mission and events. Including building an audience and building your association's brand.

It was a step ahead towards the bright future.

### FANTASTIC LINES BY MOTHER TERESA

"If your Eyes are Positive, You will Love the World.

But if Your Tongue is Positive, The World will Love you."

A woman's love is in action.

She looks with her heart and feels with her eyes.

A woman is the bank where her family deposits all anger, worries and hurt.

A woman is the cement that keeps her family together and her love lasts a lifetime.

### REMEMBER ALBERT EINSTEIN'S WORDS

*Don't be DISAPPOINTED If people refuse to help you.*

*"I'm THANKFUL to all Those who said 'NO'  
because of them, I did it myself."*

## HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT 2016-2017

The year gone by – the 101<sup>st</sup> – has been a year of consolidation. This year, focus has been on growth of membership numbers and overall review of structures put in place in the first 100 years of WGU. It has been a year of looking ahead and being well-prepared to meet the challenges of tomorrow. To thrive in the long term, one has to successfully read tomorrow's demands today and equip ourselves accordingly. This being the age of high technology WGU has to move with the times and it has! But hand-in-hand one needs talented people to steer and direct the Organization. Here, I am happy to say that, the ladies at the helm of WGU, Trustees, Past Presidents, Managing Committee members, Project Committee Chairpersons and Office bearers lead by our President Mrs. Havovi Gandhi, have years of experience in various posts and have the true interest of WGU at heart.

I also wish to thank all Associate, Ordinary, Associate Life and Life Members for their active participation in the events and activities conducted during the year. Hope in each event you had a great time and gained some knowledge as you keenly participated in question and answer sessions that followed. We look forward for a good response each year.

THANK YOU each and every one of you ladies for your unabated, unending daily efforts to keep WGU strong and relevant to the day and age.

*Be Strong and of a good courage,  
fear not, Nor be afraid ... for the Lord thy God,  
He it is that doth go with thee;  
He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.  
DEUTERONOMY*